

Rachel Conboy
President – UConn Student Body at Storrs
Hometown: East Hartford

Good Evening appropriations committee,

My name is Rachel Conboy. My hometown is East Hartford, CT. I am a senior political science and history major at the University of Connecticut and I am honored to introduce myself as the President of the Student Body, at Storrs. **I'd like to ask all my fellow Huskies to stand up and show your support for UConn.**

I would like to take this time to tell you not only what UConn means to me as a student, but also as a lifelong Connecticut resident.

The best way to describe my relationship with the university is from the beginning. My brother graduated from the UConn business school in 2005. He had originally attended a comparable out of state university but transferred to the school when he realized the prestigious education he would receive at an affordable rate. Since then he has worked at multiple companies in the Hartford area, received his MBA and has bought a home in West Hartford. I do not believe any other state school would have received the same national attention which brought my brother back home and built his professional network across the state like UConn did.

After one year at a comparable state university I also transferred to UConn in 2013. **Affordability brought me to UConn Opportunity and academic excellence kept me here.** As many of my peers will tell you today. **UConn provides the best research, industry, and leadership opportunities in the state of Connecticut.**

Before I attended the university, I saw it as just our state school. Little did I realize UConn is much more than just a state school. I find that UConn students graduate with a different mindset. Our counselors give us global opportunity with the ability to bring back our knowledge to Connecticut. My classmates are motivated to reinvigorate the state.

It is most surprising however the effect the university has on my friends who have never taken a step on the UConn campus. They have however, gone to local shops to buy UConn gear, read articles on the research done at UConn, and followed UConn headlines in national news. They go to football games at Rentschler field and hockey and basketball games at XL. **At the end of the day, UConn is not just the student's team, UConn is Connecticut's team.**

As the University of Connecticut grows and thrives I have no doubt the state will see the benefits to its economy, its workforce, and its state pride. The new Hartford campus and Fast Track buses will create an even stronger network of connections between our students and Hartford business. I ask of the committee to reconsider any cuts to UConn when Connecticut needs excellent students in its workforce now more than ever.

I leave the appropriations committee with some questions. What is UConn to CT? After the testimony you hear today, what will the state lose if the University is forced to cut back? Can the state afford to drain resources from one of the most iconic pieces of Connecticut's identity?

Thank you for your time.